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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Advisory

Two retired National Guard soldiers will enter Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor

The Wisconsin Army National Guard will recognize two outstanding retired Guard members during its Hall of Honor ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday [Mar. 5, 2006] in the Assembly chambers of the state Capitol building in Madison.

The sixth annual induction ceremony will honor:

Col. Arthur "Stir" Wagner, Altoona, Wis., who joined the Guard in 1939, served in World War II and retired in 1974 as commander of the 264th Engineer Group. He was called to active duty with his battalion for the Berlin Crisis in 1961.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald G. Bieker, DeForest, Wis., who was a member of the Guard for 38 years and was a driving force behind establishing non-commissioned officer training courses at the Wisconsin Military Academy. Bieker served 29 years in key administrative roles at the academy before accepting a position at the state headquarters in Madison.

An informal reception will follow the ceremony.

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Note to editors and news directors: News media are welcome to cover the Hall of Honor induction ceremony that will include presentation of the colors, music by the 132nd Army Band, and remarks by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton and senior National Guard officials. For further information, or to make advance arrangements for interviews, contact Lt. Col. Tim Donovan at 608-516-1777 or Norm Lenburg at 608-695-5395.